

REMARKS

Applicants will address each of the Examiner's rejections in the order in which they appear in the Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 47, 49, 51-53, 56, 57, 59 and 60 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Jinno et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While Applicants believe that the Examiner's rejection is incorrect and traverse it, in order to advance the prosecution of this application, Applicants are amending independent Claims 47 and 56 to recite that the irradiation is conducted in an oxidizing atmosphere. Support for this amendment is shown, for example, at page 31, lns. 16-24 of the specification.

As the Examiner admits that this limitation is not shown in Jinno, it is respectfully requested that this rejection now be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

The Examiner also has the following rejections under 35 USC §103(a):

- A. Claim 48 is rejected as being unpatentable over Jinno et al. in view of Miyasaka.
- B. Claims 50 and 58 are rejected as being unpatentable over Jinno et al. in view of Kim et al.
- C. Claims 61, 62, 64-69, 71-76, 78 and 79 are rejected as being unpatentable over Jinno et al. in view of Makita et al.
- D. Claims 63, 70 and 77 are rejected as being unpatentable over Jinno et al. in view of

Makita et al and further in view of Kim et al.

Each of these rejections is respectfully traversed.

With regard to the rejections (A) and (B) above, Claims 48, 50, and 58 are dependent on independent Claims 47 and 56. These dependent claims are patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons discussed above for the independent claims.

With regard to rejection (C) above, Applicants note that independent Claim 66 recites:

“forming a first gate insulating film, an amorphous semiconductor film and *a second insulating film* sequentially over the gate wiring in this order in a film formation apparatus;
irradiating the amorphous semiconductor film with light to crystallize the semiconductor film *through the second insulating film;*” (emphasis added)

Applicants cannot find any discussion in the Office Action as to where this limitation in the claim is shown in the cited references. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that a prima facie case of obviousness has not been shown and the rejection of this claim is not proper. Therefore, it is requested that the rejection of independent Claim 66 and those dependent thereon be withdrawn.

For similar reasons, the rejection of independent Claim 73 and those claims dependent thereon should also be withdrawn.

New Claims

Applicants are also adding new Claims 80-85. Please charge our deposit account 50/1039 for any fee due for these new claims.

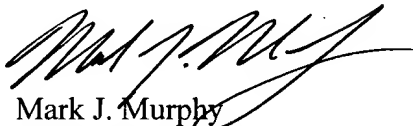
Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in a condition for allowance and should be allowed.

If any fee should be due for this amendment, please charge our deposit account 50/1039.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark J. Murphy", written over the printed name.

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